Claims

[c1] A method for collecting usage data for a meter comprising:
determining whether data collection segregation rules are current; and
processing an update of the data collection segregation rules if the data collection segregation rules are not current.

[c2] The method of claim 1 further comprising:
determining a meter segment type; and
determining whether the data collection segregation rules are current using the meter segment type.

[c3] The method of claim 2 wherein the meter segment type is dynamically determined by using meter data.

[c4] The method of claim 3 wherein the meter data comprises the average number of mail pieces processed per day by the meter.

[c5] The method of claim 3 wherein the meter data is stored at a central server.

[c6] The method of claim 3 wherein:

the meter includes an active data collection segregation rules storage system for storing the data collection segregation rules;
the meter includes a future data collection segregation rules storage system for storing future data collection segregation rules; and
the update of the data collection segregation rules is performed by replacing the data collection segregation rules with the future data collection segregation rules.

[c7] The method of claim 1 wherein:
the data collection segregation rules comprise a text string used for printing data capture information in a meter indicia.

[c8] The method of claim 1 wherein:
the meter includes a removable UIC;
the meter includes a vault having a serial number; and
further comprising:
determining whether the UIC and Vault must be matched; and
determining whether the UIC is installed with the matching vault using the serial number.

[c9] The method of claim 8 wherein:
the meter includes a first memory system;
the meter includes a second memory system; and

further comprising:
determining transaction data capture data records using the data collection segregation rules for each transaction; and
storing the transaction data capture data in the first memory system after each transaction.

[c10] The method of claim 9, wherein the first memory device is a nonvolatile memory system and the second memory device is a nonvolatile memory system.

[c11] The method of claim 10, wherein the first memory device is a battery-backed CMOS memory system and the second memory device is a flash EEPROM nonvolatile memory system.

[c12] The method of claim 11, wherein the data records are stored using XML.

[c13] The method of claim 12, wherein the data records are filtered using an application specific data filter.

[c14] The method of claim 9, further comprising:
periodically copying the data records from the first memory to the second memory.

[c15] The method of claim 9 wherein:
the data collection segregation rules provide for collec-

tion of data to differentiate transactions processed using automated rating and transactions processed using manual rating.

[c16] The method of claim 15 wherein:
manual rating comprises keypad data entry; and
automated rating comprises automatically weighing mail pieces..

[c17] The method of claim 9 further comprising:
aggregating transaction records into a data report.

[c18] The method of claim 17 further comprising:
determining a unique identifier for the data report.

[c19] The method of claim 18 further comprising:
transmitting the data report and unique identifier to a central server.